

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO, CA

SUBJECT: REPORT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA AND THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF PORTUGAL

REF: A. USNATO 2074

B. USNATO 2041 (NOTAL)

B. USNATO 1744 (NOTAL)

Q. CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED TO SYG LUNS AND OTHER ALLIES
(EXCEPT PORTUGAL) THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF AN APRIL 27 DINNER
CONVERSATION IN LISBON BETWEEN CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MACEACHEN AND PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER
ANTUNES.

BEGIN TEXT:

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THE PORTUGUESE SIDE WAS ELATED AT THE RESULTS OF
THE APRIL 25 ELECTION, BELIEVING THAT PORTUGAL COULD NOW
PURSUE A MIDDLE COURSE WITH THE SUPPORT OF MAJORITY
OPINION IN FAVOUR OF MODERATION.

MR ANTUNES POINTED OUT THAT PORTUGAL WOULD HAVE TO AVOID THE DOCTRINAIRE EXTREMES OF BOTH SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM. PORTUGALS PRESNET DIFFIVULT TRANSITORY SITUATION DEMEANDED AN IMAGINATIVE APPROACH. HE STRESSED THE DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO ABIDE BY ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND TO CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN NATO. HE RECONFIREMED THAT PRESIDENT GOMES WOULD ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING NATO SUMMIT. HE POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT THE PROTUGUESE GOVERNMENT FELT UNEASY AT THE APPARENT EMPHASIS ON NATO BEING A MILITARY ALLIACNE AND HE HOPED THAT ECONOMIC MATTERS WOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL IMPORTANCE.

CONCERNING CSCE HE EXPECTED THAT EASIER COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE OPENED AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AND THAT THE SMALLER COUNTIRES WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF RELATIONS IN ORDER TO PREVENT A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN BLOCS OR THE SUPER POWERS. PORTUGAL, WHICH HAD ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HAD BROKEN OUT OF ITS ISOLATION AND WISHED TO BE FULLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A NEW EUROPE.

FOR HIS PART, MR MACEACHEN EXPRESSED THE INTENTION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO ASSIST PORTUGAL AND,IN THAT REGARD, MENTIONED THE POSSIBILTY OF EXTENDING PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT TO PORTUGAL UNDER THE GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEME. MR ANTUNES THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE PORTUGAL WAS NOT AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY, IT NEVERTHELESS NEEDED AT THIS TIME SUPPORT FROM FRIENDLY NATIONS IN ORDER TO CORRECT THE DISTORTIONS INHERITED FROM THE FORMER REGIME. THIS DID NOT REQUIRE CAPITAL FROM ABROAD AS MUCH AS "KNOW HOW". CANADA COULD HELP BY PROVIDING EXPERTS PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE, WHERE A REFORM OF METHODS AND THE MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT WERE NECESSARY.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA SUGGESTED THAT A JOINT EXAMINATION OF THE WAYS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN SOON. THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT A TECHNICAL MISSION FROM HIS COUNTRY MIGHT USEFULLY VISIT OTTAWA IN JUNE. IN THIS REGARD BOTH MINISTERS AGREED THAT SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPATED AND THAT OFFICIALS IN OTTAWA AND LISBON SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER THE MENAS OF ACHIEVING POSITIVE COOPERATION. IN THAT CONNECTION, FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES APPEARED TO ENVISAGE SOME KIND OF BROAD UMBRELLA ACCORD COVERING ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

THE BRIEF STOPOVER BY MR MACEACHEN WAS MOST

SUCCESSFUL AND THE PORTUGUESE SIDE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED AT
THIS GOODWILL GESTURE AND THEY TOOK EVIDENT PRIDE IN THE
DISCIPLINED AND REASONABLE BEHAVIOUR OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE
DURING THE RECENT ELECTION, THE RESULT OF WHICH IS BEING
REGARDED AS A CLEAR WARNING AGAINST POLITICAL ADVENTURES.
CANADA'S OFFER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS WELL RECEIVED.
END TEXT. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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